AARON HACKETT, 05/02/2019

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

ESTATE OF CHRISTOPHER J. DAVIS and DORETHA LOCK, as the Special Administrator of the Estate of Christopher J. Davis,

Plaintiffs.

-vs-

Case No. 18-CV-01846

JUAN ORTIZ, et al.,

Defendants.

Examination of AARON HACKETT, taken at the instance of the Plaintiffs, under and pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, before Dawn M. Lahti, a Certified Realtime Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, at Crivello Carlson, S.C., 710 North Plankinton Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin on May 2, 2019, commencing at 9:03 a.m. and concluding at 10:38 a.m.

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1
                     APPEARANCES
2
    CADE LAW GROUP, by
 3
    MR. NATHANIEL CADE, JR.
    P.O. Box 170887
    Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217
4
     appeared on behalf of the Plaintiffs.
 5
6
    CRIVELLO CARLSON, S.C., by
    MR. BENJAMIN A. SPARKS
7
     710 North Plankinton Avenue, Suite 500
    Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203
    appeared on behalf of Juan Ortiz, Walworth County,
8
     Kurt Picknell, Matthew Weber.
9
10
    THOMPSON LEGAL LLC, by
    MS. DANIELLE H. THOMPSON
     234 South Main Street
11
     Jefferson, Wisconsin 53549
     appeared on behalf of the Town of East Troy,
12
     James Surges, Craig Knox, Paul Schmidt.
13
14
     KASDORF, LEWIS & SWIETLIK, S.C., by
    MR. ROBERT J. LAUER
    11270 West Park Place, Suite 500
15
    Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53224
    appeared on behalf of the Village of East Troy,
16
     Jeremy Swendrowski, Jeff Price, Aaron Hackett.
17
                           * * * * *
18
19
                    ALSO PRESENT
20
    Ms. Doretha Lock.
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1		TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
2		AARON HACKETT, called as a witness
3		herein, having been first duly sworn on oath,
4		was examined and testified as follows:
5		EXAMINATION
6	BY M	IR. CADE:
7	Q	Good morning, Officer Hackett. Do you mind if
8		I call you Officer Hackett?
9	Α	That's fine, sir.
10	Q	Again, don't call me, sir. I work for a
11		living.
12		Officer, have you ever been
13		deposed before?
14	Α	I have not.
15	Q	For the record, could you please state and
16		spell your name.
17	Α	My first name is Aaron, A-A-R-O-N. Last name
18		is Hackett, H-A-C-K-E-T-T.
19	Q	Do you get a lot of the jokes, the AA-Ron?
20	Α	I work in the high school, so the kids like to
21		say that a lot to me. You bet.
22	Q	So Officer Hackett, I am sure that Mr. Lauer
23		has been very thorough with his meeting with
24		you in terms of what's being said or what
25		occurs at a deposition. There's really only a

few rules. 1 The first rule is only one 2 3 person can talk at a time, and that's done 4 because that assists our court reporter, Dawn, 5 She's very good. I've had her as a 6 reporter for years and years and years, but 7 she'll tell you at some point I can clock in at over 300 words a minute, and that sort of taxes 8 9 the reporters if that goes long enough. And then you couple that with someone if they 10 11 interject and jump in, and the transcript could 12 get jumbled. It may have me answering a 13 question and you asking it. 14 Α Okay. 15 Q So it's important for you to allow me to finish 16 asking the question, and I'll allow you to 17 finish answering it. 18 Also coupled along those same 19 lines is don't assume or guess what my question 20 is or where I'm going. I often hear witnesses 21 say, well, I'm not quite sure where you're 22 going. It doesn't matter. You answer the 23 question. 24 The reason that's important is I 25 may start asking a question and I know, for

1 example, in this case Attorney Lauer is going to object. And so what I'll do is ask a 2 3 prefatory question. So I may stop mid-sentence, change my question because 4 5 there's something I think you need to answer first, and then I'll go back maybe to my 6 7 original question. 8 So wait for me to finish asking 9 the question, and I'll wait for you to finish answering, fair? 10 11 Yes, sir. Α 12 Outstanding. The other thing that's important 0 13 is nodding of the head, uh-huh and um-hum and 14 things like that. If you do that, I'll say, 15 "Is that a yes?" I'm not doing it to be rude. 16 I'm doing it because all Dawn can do here is 17 say witness shakes head. If you say uh-huh, 18 she can't say you meant to say yes, and we can't assume that. So I'll ask that question 19 20 or if you're shaking your head. 21 Some people have a nervous tick 22 where they just nod their head as they're 23 going. I have a sister-in-law like she's 24 listening, but she's really not, but she's nice 25 and nods her head. So if you do any of those

things, I'll say "Is that a yes?" just to make 1 sure the record is clear. 2 3 If I ask you a question today that is unclear or you're not quite sure or 4 5 perhaps I'm asking it totally wrong, just let me know, and I'll rephrase it. And if I can't 6 7 figure out a way amongst all the lawyers here, we'll figure out a way to ask you the question 8 9 appropriately. Fair enough? I understand. 10 Α Finally for today's deposition, I will assume 11 0 12 that if you answered a question, meaning I 13 asked a question and you gave a verbal response 14 to it, that you understood the question being 15 asked. Fair? That's fair. 16 Α 17 I'm going to dispense with a lot of the stuff 0 18 that normally happens in depositions where they 19 go through your background and all that because I've already got your employment file. 20 21 already had an opportunity to review all that 22 stuff, so most of that stuff is moot for right 23 now. 24 I just want to focus the reason 25 we're here and this lawsuit dealing with the

1 shooting that occurred on February 24th of 2016. Fair enough? 2 3 I understand. I'm going to show you what's been marked as 4 Q Exhibit No. 37. 5 (Exhibit 37 was marked for 6 7 identification.) 8 BY MR. CADE: 9 37, sir, you'll see at the bottom it's a single 0 10 color page photograph that appears to be you, 11 correct? 12 That is correct. Α And this photograph -- if you look at the 13 Q 14 bottom, there is a number down there that 15 starts T, for Tom, 001588. Do you see that? 16 I do. Α 17 That is what we call a Bates number, and really 0 18 all it is is a control mechanism. So if you 19 get a bunch of lawyers in the room because we 20 like to play on paper rather than other things, 21 if I say 1588, everybody knows what page I'm on 22 and we don't have to say, well, that's a 23 different photograph of Hackett; no, it's this 24 photograph. We know that we're all dealing 25 with the exact same page, okay?

1 Understood. Α 2 So on the day in question at the shooting -- at 0 3 the time of the shooting, I should say, approximately 5:20, 5:30 --4 5 That sounds right. Α -- this was what you were wearing at that time, 6 Q 7 sir? 8 Α It is. 9 So now what I'm going to do is --Q 10 (Exhibit 38 was marked for identification.) 11 12 BY MR. CADE: 13 I'm going to show you what's been marked as 0 Exhibit 38. 38 is just a Google map of Roma's 14 15 restaurant, an aerial photograph. I'll come 16 back to this in a moment. 17 What I'd like to start with is 18 walk me through what time your shift started on 19 the 24th. 20 I was in the school, so it would be 07:30. Α 21 So 7:30 in the morning? Q 22 Α Correct. 23 And is there a particular school that you're Q 24 at, or do you rotate amongst the schools? 25 It's all five buildings in the district. Α

1 Are they all on the same campus, or are they Q all in different locations? 2 3 Two of them -- I guess there's a location with the middle school and the high school, and then 4 5 I'd say maybe a 10th or more away of a mile is the elementary school and the primary. 6 7 Actually you know what? That's 2016 -- they just built that school, so 8 down. 9 my brain is -- Doubek was actually this way, so the primary school was a little further away 10 than -- East Troy is not that big, but I would 11 12 not consider them all in the same campus, no. 13 And you said Doubek? 0 Doubek Elementary. 14 Α 15 Q Can you spell Doubek? 16 Α D-O-U-B-E-K. 17 One of the things I forgot to mention, and I 0 18 was hoping we wouldn't have spellings because you're one of the later depositions, is to make 19 20 things easier on Dawn --21 I understand. Α 22 -- of the transcript, she can't guess what --Q 23 spellings and things like that. So at the end 24 if I don't spell it, she'll say can you spell 25 this, can you spell that, and then she's got to

1		search through her files. I save her a lot of
2		time by doing that in the beginning so she's
3		not confused. And occasionally I'll get a
4		phone call from a reporter saying, hey, do you
5		know how to spell something, I forgot to ask at
6		the deposition.
7		So there was a Doubek Elementary
8		School, the middle school, high school, and you
9		had a primary school?
10	А	Prairie View.
11	Q	Okay.
12		MR. LAUER: I just wanted to say make
13		sure he is finished with his question and then
14		you answer.
15		THE WITNESS: I got you.
16		MR. LAUER: Thank you.
17	BY M	R. CADE:
18	Q	So when you say you're at the schools, is there
19		a specific rotation; you're at the elementary
20		school this day, you're at the high school this
21		day, or you bounce around from school to
22		school?
23	А	I primarily spend my time at the high school.
24		That's just because where a lot of the
25		issues arise quickly, but I rotate through all

1 the schools. I rotate through all the schools. 2 I try to get there at least once a day, and then I'll go over there whenever contacted for 3 assistance. 4 5 Q Sure. Okay. So you start at 7:30 at the 6 schools and at some point you -- what would 7 your normal shift be, 7:30 to 2:30? 8 Α 15:30. 9 Okay. So that's 3:30. But you were -- I know Q 10 at some point you were at the police 11 department, the village police department to 12 deal with an informant and a drug bust, 13 correct? 14 Α That was not my primary reason for being at the 15 police department. 16 Okay. What was your primary reason for being Q 17 at the police department? 18 At that point I was finishing my shift. Α 19 So you had finished at the schools, and 0 Okav. 20 you come over to the police department I quess 21 to change out of your uniform? 22 Α Correct. And then what happened? Let's start there. 23 0 24 You get to the police department. Walk me 25 through that aspect of it.

1	Α	Sure. So I see Officer Price, and he is in the
2		booking room. I met him in the hallway, and he
3		informed me what he had had at the Shell gas
4		station. I believe it started with a domestic
5		and subsequently resulted in a drug
6		investigation as well.
7	Q	Did he describe or say anything to you about
8		the confidential informant and the information
9		he had gleaned from that informant?
10	Α	He had mentioned that at some point in his
11		investigation he had learned that the person
12		that was arrested was willing to call known
13		drug suppliers and have them come to the
14		Village of East Troy.
15	Q	And did you participate in the first bust that
16		was supposed to happen at the Shell but
17		subsequently was the Burger King?
18	Α	I was present, yes.
19	Q	When you say "present," does that mean that you
20		didn't participate?
21	Α	Well
22		MR. LAUER: I'll just object to the
23		form of the question. It's vague as to
24		participation or "participate;" but subject to
25		that, go ahead and answer his question.

1 THE WITNESS: It's not as simple as 2 that I guess in my brain. 3 BY MR. CADE: Okay. Explain for me. 4 Q 5 So when I was finishing my shift, Officer Price was there with Chief Swendrowski -- excuse me, 6 7 Deputy Chief Swendrowski at the time and Deputy 8 Ortiz, and they were talking about kind of what 9 their plan was going to be. 10 I remember at one point I was 11 with Officer Price, and we had talked about 12 moving the CI's car from the parking lot in the 13 Village of East Troy Police Department up to 14 the Shell gas station. 15 I assisted Price in that, and 16 then I came back to the police department, and 17 I recall doing some paperwork and kind of 18 finishing some things up that I had that day, and then Officer Price had contacted me via 19 phone and said, "Are you still there?" I said 20 "Yes, I am." He said "Would you mind putting 21 your civilians on?" I said "I'm already 22 23 wearing my civilians. Would you mind going up 24 to the Shell gas station with your civilian car 25 and pumping gas and letting us know when a

1 vehicle that may match the description enters the parking lot?" 2 3 Did you get free gas? 0 Free gas? 4 Α 5 He told you to go over there and pump Q 6 gas. Was he going to pay for the gas to be 7 pumped in the car, or that was you filling up? I think that was probably me filling up my 8 Α 9 personal car. So if I understand correctly, you assisted 10 0 Price initially to take the informant's vehicle 11 to the Shell station and leave it there. 12 Price then brought you back to the station I'm 13 14 assuming and then left, or did you walk back? 15 Α I think I drove him back. 16 Okay. So he drove the informant's car, and you Q 17 drove a police car or --18 I don't know what I drove, but I remember in my Α 19 head I want to say his car was a stick shift, 20 so I wasn't too happy about that. The informant's car? 21 Q I believe so. 22 Α 23 And so then one way or the other the car is 0 24 delivered to the Shell, the informant's car, 25 and then the two of you go back to the police

1 department, and you're finishing up paperwork and changing? 2 3 I believe so. Α And then Price left? 4 0 5 He did. Α And then between you guys going back to the 6 Q station and Price leaving and then you 7 receiving this phone call from Price, how long 8 of a time frame was that? 9 I don't remember. 10 Α So then at some point Price calls you on the 11 Q 12 phone and says --13 Are you still at work? Α 14 Q Are you still there, I need your -- I need you to come to the Shell station? 15 16 Α Correct. 17 Did he explain to you what the plan was or what Q 18 the next steps were? 19 I mean I had an understanding that the plan was Α 20 to conduct a traffic stop. 21 And what did that mean, conduct a traffic stop? Q 22 It means locate the vehicle, turn your Α 23 emergency lights on and conduct a traffic stop. 24 So wait for the person to get in the general Q 25 area and then be on the physical streets to

sort of traffic stop in the parking lot of the Shell gas station? A I don't know if we specifically talked about that. I think it would be kind of a fluid thing. Prior to February 24th, had you had an opportunity to let me back up. It's fair to say that when you were at the Shell, you were essentially acting undercover because you were not in uniform, correct? MR. LAUER: Object to the form. Lack of foundation. THE WITNESS: I was not displaying myself as a police officer. BY MR. CADE: Q Sure. But do you understand the concept of undercover versus being uniformed, the difference? A I guess I was in civilian clothes. Q Sure. Other than as we see on Exhibit 37, you had a lanyard with your badge, and I'm assuming that was tucked inside your North Face jacket? A While I was filling up with gasoline, yes.	1		conduct a traffic stop, or was it doing some
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	23		had a lanyard with your badge, and I'm assuming
25 A While I was filling up with gasoline, yes.	24		that was tucked inside your North Face jacket?
	25	Α	While I was filling up with gasoline, yes.

1 You weren't at the gas station with that out Q displaying, hey, I'm a police officer? 2 3 No, I was not. Α And so to the average person, if they just saw 4 Q 5 you pumping gas short of them knowing I know that's Aaron and I know he's a police officer, 6 7 no one would have knowledge that you were acting as a police officer at that point in 8 9 time, correct? That is correct. 10 Α And I'm assuming that at this point in time 11 Q 12 while you're at the gas station, you were still on the proverbial clock meaning either your 13 14 shift had ended or you were doing overtime or 15 however that's calculated for the department, 16 fair? 17 Α Correct. 18 So when I use the term "undercover," would that Q 19 be a fair representation that even though you 20 weren't in uniform, you were purposely 21 concealing your identity as a police officer 22 while you were at the Shell gas station, that 23 was the whole point of you being there? 24 MR. LAUER: Object to the form of the 25 question.

1		You may answer.
2		THE WITNESS: I guess given that
3		definition, yes. I just kind of sure.
4	BY M	IR. CADE:
5	Q	I mean you weren't in a police vehicle. You
6		were in your personal vehicle, correct?
7	Α	Correct.
8	Q	I'm assuming your personal vehicle doesn't have
9		lights and everything to throw on even internal
10		lights, correct?
11	Α	That's correct.
12	Q	So you just know from Price speaking with you
13		the plan was to conduct some sort of traffic
14		stop on a known drug supplier that the
15		informant was getting to come down into the
16		village to try to attempt to sell drugs, fair?
17	Α	Correct.
18	Q	The phone call on the phone with Price let
19		me back up.
20		Price told you the plan over the
21		phone, or were you meeting with him in person
22		having discussions about what the plan was?
23	Α	Over the phone.
24	Q	Were you privy as to whether other officers,
25		law enforcement personnel were in the area or

1 part of this plan? 2 I did know that Deputy Ortiz and Deputy Chief Α 3 Swendrowski were nearby. And how were you given that information? 4 Q 5 Because I saw them all getting together and Α meeting at the police department. 6 7 Q So when you say "getting together," was that before you took the informant's vehicle to the 8 9 Shell or after you took the informant's vehicle to the Shell? 10 I believe Deputy Ortiz and Deputy Chief 11 Α Swendrowski had already left the police 12 13 department. 14 Q I guess I'm lost in time because I asked that 15 question, was it two time periods, and you said 16 they had already left. 17 Okay. Sorry. Α 18 That's okay. We know that you start your day Q 19 in the school somewhere. We know that you come 20 back because you're finishing up, and that's 21 when Price says, hey, I need your help to take 22 this car over to the Shell, correct? Deputy Chief Swendrowski, Officer Price 23 Α 24 and Deputy Ortiz were at the police department 25 discussing what was going to happen.

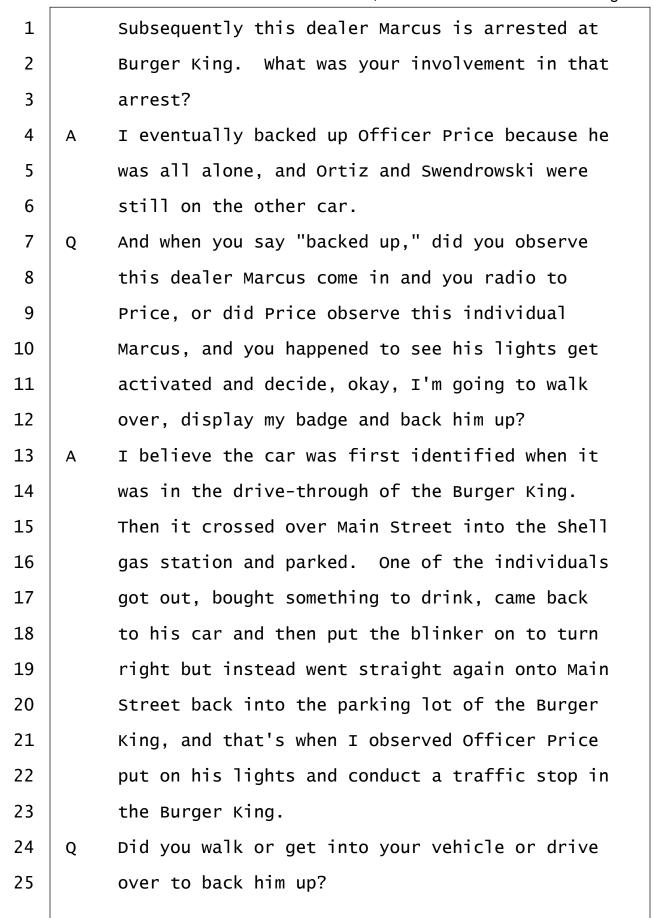
1	Q	Okay.
2	Α	I was not needed, so I started policing up my
3		own tasks that I had throughout the day. I
4		have a memory after they after Deputy Ortiz
5		and Deputy Chief Swendrowski leave, I'm
6		assuming to take up positions nearby where we
7		would assume that the traffic stop would take
8		place. I'm standing in the hallway alone with
9		Price, and that's when the idea is do you think
10		we should move the car.
11	Q	To the Shell?
12	Α	I said that's probably a good idea because if
13		these two know each other, he's going to feel
14		familiar with seeing that car at the parking
15		lot and not get spooked.
16		So I assisted him with doing
17		that, then came back to the police department
18		and continued getting things done.
19	Q	Okay.
20	Α	Then the phone call comes. "Hackett, I need
21		you again. Can you put your grab your
22		radio, get in your car, go fill it up with gas
23		and just tell me the cars that come in?" I
24		said, "Yes, I can do that."
25	Q	So when Swendrowski, Price and Ortiz were

1		meeting and having a conversation, you were not
2		included in that meeting. You may have
3		overheard some things, but you weren't part of
4		that planning group?
5	Α	No.
6	Q	No, I'm right or no
7		MR. LAUER: You agree with his
8		statement or you disagree?
9		THE WITNESS: I agree with your
10		statement.
11	BY MI	R. CADE:
12	Q	English language is very powerful, so that's
13		why
14	Α	Very good. I understand.
15	Q	I understood what you said, but we got to make
16		sure the record is clear.
17		So subsequently you have a radio
18		while you're pumping gas. Do you have your
19		radio out, or is your window down and it's on
20		the seat?
21	Α	I think I had it in the car because it's kind
22		of hard to carry in a pocket because I wasn't
23		wearing my belt.
24	Q	Your police belt?
25	Α	Correct.

1	Q	And I'm assuming that while you're pumping gas
2		if you're not wearing your belt, that also
3		means that you don't have your department
4		issued sidearm on you?
5	Α	Correct.
6	Q	Do you have an undercover or an off-duty
7		sidearm?
8	Α	I do.
9	Q	And was that in the car, or was that on your
10		person?
11	Α	That was on my belt.
12	Q	On your physical belt on you?
13	Α	On my pants, yes.
14	Q	But you had your jacket on, so that's covering
15		that up?
16	Α	Correct.
17	Q	So other than having your off-duty weapon on
18		you, did you have anything else on you? We
19		know you don't have your radio. You've got
20		your shield hidden inside your jacket.
21		Is there anything else that's on
22		your belt?
23	Α	No.
24	Q	So how were you going to communicate to Price
25		or potentially the others what you were

1 observing in the Shell gas station if your radio was in the vehicle? 2 3 Open the door and sit down and talk on my Α radio. 4 5 So you pretend to pump a -- I'm assuming at Q some point you've already filled up with gas. 6 7 You're not there that long. Once gas is put in, gas is put in, fair? 8 9 Α Correct. So you would open up your door, kind of sit on 10 Q the seat and kind of radio what you would 11 12 see -- what you would observe? 13 Α Correct. And then were you being relayed instructions or 14 Q 15 information as to what to do next? 16 I was mainly just supplying information. Α 17 At some point we know that there is a vehicle Q that Price pulls over that he believes is this 18 19 first drug dealer we now know as Marcus. That's the name we have. 20 21 Okay. Α 22 And it turns out that it's roughly near the Q 23 entrance getting off of 43 or getting on 43. 24 It's not clear but at that point in time. 25 Were you involved in that first

1		takedown?
2		MR. LAUER: I'll just object. If I
3		understood your question, you're saying that
4		Marcus was the first car that was pulled over
5		by Price?
6		MR. CADE: No. Marcus was the
7		individual who was arrested in the Burger King
8		parking lot.
9		MR. LAUER: Okay.
10		MR. CADE: There was a vehicle
11		previous to that that was either on the
12		interstate or just getting off the interstate,
13		and that was the individual who Ortiz finished
14		up writing a citation for.
15	BY M	R. CADE:
16	Q	I just want to know if you were involved in
17		that very first individual who just by
18		happenstance was dumb enough to drive in the
19		village with a vehicle that smelled like
20		marijuana.
21	Α	I was not involved in that.
22	Q	So let's skip forward a moment. I know that
23		Price pulls that individual over and then
24		leaves the scene because both Swendrowski and
25		Ortiz are dealing with that individual.



1	Α	I got into my vehicle, drove around the back
2		side of the Shell, and there's a driveway that
3		shares two properties between the Shell,
4		McDonald's and a bank.
5		From that vantage point I could
6		see Officer Price conducting the vehicle
7		contact, and I could see that there were two
8		individuals.
9		I drove across Main Street into
10		a parking lot that's like a car wash, and from
11		there I sat for a little bit, realized that the
12		other two uniformed officers were not going to
13		be able to make it. Just with all of the
14		details involved, I got out of my car,
15		displayed my badge and provided backup to
16		Officer Price.
17	Q	By "backup," you display your badge, you
18		display your pull up your jacket, maybe
19		display your weapon or have it slightly
20		unholstered and stand there in case anything
21		happens while Price gives verbal commands and
22		the individuals get out of the car, that kind
23		of stuff?
24		MR. LAUER: Object to the form. Lack
25		of foundation.

1		Go ahead. You may answer.
2		THE WITNESS: I don't know if I
3		brandished or unholstered my weapon as I walked
4		up, but I did produce my badge in an effort to
5		give Officer Price an extra set of eyes and
6		hands.
7	BY M	R. CADE:
8	Q	While this was going on between you getting in
9		your car seeing Price activate his lights,
10		initiate the stop and then you cross over,
11		you're at the car wash, et cetera, were you in
12		radio communication with either Price,
13		Swendrowski or Ortiz?
14	Α	I don't recall from Swendrowski or Ortiz, but
15		there was communication between me and Price
16		where he had asked me to Officer Price had
17		asked me to come over there and help him.
18	Q	So it wasn't just you on your own initiative.
19		You had received a verbal command or request
20		for assistance from Price to come aid him?
21	Α	Correct.
22	Q	So two individuals in the car. There's a
23		driver. The passenger was this Marcus
24		individual. At some point who shows up next,
25		Ortiz, Swendrowski?

1 I would say Deputy Chief Swendrowski. Α 2 And were you -- once Swendrowski shows up, did 0 3 you remain out providing backup to Price, or did you go get back into your personal vehicle? 4 5 I stayed there on foot for a little while. Α 6 Q What happened next? 7 Α Officer Price requested an additional unit from 8 county, so I believe it was -- Deputy Weber 9 showed up because we needed a place to put these two individuals temporarily because 10 Officer Price had the CI in the back of his 11 12 car, so we couldn't exactly put these two guys 13 back there. 14 So we put a guy -- one of them 15 in the back of Deputy Chief Swendrowski's and 16 one in the back of Deputy Weber's, and I 17 remember Deputy Ortiz eventually coming back 18 into the area. Okay. So one individual is put in Weber's car; 19 Q 20 one individual is put in Swendrowski's car? 21 I believe so. Α 22 0 And then what happened? 23 And then I recall Officer Price talking to Α 24 deputy chief, and I was right there and said 25 that the CI had a second individual coming to

1 East Troy that had cocaine. 2 Okay. What information was shared with you? Q 3 At that point I just knew that -- I believe I Α knew maybe it might be up at Roma's, and then 4 5 it was cocaine. And you were familiar with Roma's? 6 Q 7 Α Yes. 8 Have you eaten there? Q 9 I have. Α 10 Any good? Q The pizza's not bad. 11 Α 12 You're the only one who's really -- all the Q other officers don't eat there, so I'm a little 13 concerned for the health of the business. 14 15 Α well, sometimes the issue -- yeah. No, it's 16 doing fine. 17 So you get information. Does Price convey this 0 18 information to you directly, or is he conveying 19 it to you in a group of people about what's 20 occurring at Roma's? 21 Α It wasn't directly to me. We were all kind of 22 in a group behind the first traffic stop's car. And when you say we were "in a group," who was 23 Q

Weber was right -- Deputy Weber was right

in this group?

24

25

Α

Officer Price. I don't exactly know when Ortiz showed up, but he joined the area. And while it's you, Price, Swendrowski and weber, was the decision made to go to Roma's to do a takedown or arrest there? A Eventually, yes. What do you mean "eventually"? Well, we did have two individuals that we just arrested. Um-hum. A we do have two squad cars with so we do have to think about processing them. Ortiz is dropping that person off. I'm obviously not wearing body armor, so I'm not going to be counted as one who can assist, and then I recall hearing Officer Knox from the Town of East Troy radio in that he was in the area and on duty. Officer Price called him on the radio and said would you mind coming over to the Burger King and meeting up with us. He said you bet, I'm on the way. So at that point at that point everybody felt comfortable manpower-wise,	1		there, Deputy Chief Swendrowski, myself,
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on duty. Officer Price called him on the radio and said would you mind coming over to the Burger King and meeting up with us. He said you bet, I'm on the way. So at that point at that	17		recall hearing Officer Knox from the Town of
20 Officer Price called him on the 21 radio and said would you mind coming over to 22 the Burger King and meeting up with us. He 23 said you bet, I'm on the way. 24 So at that point at that	18		East Troy radio in that he was in the area and
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said you bet, I'm on the way. So at that point at that	21		radio and said would you mind coming over to
So at that point at that	22		the Burger King and meeting up with us. He
·	23		said you bet, I'm on the way.
point everybody felt comfortable manpower-wise,	24		So at that point at that
	25		point everybody felt comfortable manpower-wise,

and they moved forward with it. 1 when you say they "felt comfortable 2 Q manpower-wise," it would be Knox, Price and 3 ortiz? 4 5 Α Correct. So three vehicles was enough from a manpower 6 Q 7 standpoint? 8 Α Correct. 9 while you were meeting and they were discussing Q this information from the confidential 10 informant about this other dealer at Roma's, 11 was it ever -- was information ever provided in 12 13 terms of how many individuals were going to be at Roma's? Was it one, two or four, five? 14 15 MR. LAUER: At the Burger King you're 16 talking about? 17 BY MR. CADE: 18 While you were meeting at the Burger King, Q 19 correct. 20 MR. LAUER: Go ahead. 21 THE WITNESS: No. 22 BY MR. CADE: 23 Was there any discussion at the Burger King as Q 24 to what type of vehicle you specifically were 25 looking for?

I did not hear that information. 1 Α 2 well, help me with this, Officer. Obviously 0 3 you guys are all meeting, and at some point during the meeting -- it's February, so it's 4 5 cold out, correct? I had a coat on. 6 Α 7 Q The entire time the group was meeting at the Burger King, were you out of your vehicle, or 8 9 at some point did you go get back in your vehicle because you're like, well, I'm not 10 wearing armor, so I'm just going to go sit in 11 12 my car? Right. After officer -- after Officer Knox 13 Α 14 radioed in that he was coming, I said to Price, 15 I'm probably going to go home, and I kind of 16 checked myself out of the conversation, and I 17 did go sit in my personal car, yes. 18 And when you went to go sit in your personal Q 19 car, is there a reason why you actually did not 20 go home if you had already conveyed your intent 21 to do so? 22 Α My thought was I would stay on the outskirts 23 and at least put eyes on what was going on and 24 just make sure they had enough hands. 25 Bodies essentially? Q

1 Α Correct. At what point does Ortiz show up? 2 0 3 I don't know if he showed up before I went to Α 4 my car or after. 5 Before you went to your car, did you have any 0 6 knowledge, or was it shared with you the make 7 and model of the vehicle that you were looking for at Roma's? 8 9 I don't believe so before I went to my car. Α 10 And while you were out of your car at the Q 11 Burger King having these conversations -- let 12 me back up. 13 While you were out of your car, 14 did Knox show up so that he physically arrived 15 and you were out of your vehicle, or were you 16 back in your vehicle at the point in time Knox 17 showed up? 18 I believe his vehicle was pulling up as I was Α walking back to my car. 19 20 And prior to you walking back to your car, were 0 21 there any conversations between Price, 22 Swendrowski, Weber, because those were the 23 three that were there, correct? 24 Correct. Α 25 And -- I'm just -- all I'm trying to do is get Q

1		an order of who is there, who's on first.
2		So we know it's Price. We know
3		it's Swendrowski. We know it's Weber, correct?
4	Α	Correct.
5	Q	And you?
6	Α	Correct.
7	Q	And then at some point you make the decision
8		I'm going to go sit in my car?
9	Α	Correct.
10	Q	And as you're making that decision and starting
11		to walk to your car or get in it, that's when
12		Knox shows up?
13	Α	Correct.
14	Q	Was Ortiz there, or did he come after Knox?
15	Α	I don't remember.
16	Q	When you go back to your car, you, I'm
17		assuming, can see the group of people that are
18		meeting and having discussions at the Burger
19		King, correct?
20	Α	Correct.
21	Q	Did you witness Knox participate in those
22		discussions? Obviously you couldn't hear, but
23		did you witness him as part of that group?
24	Α	I don't recall seeing him get out of his car.
25		That's about the best I can answer that.

1 Did you happen to notice how Knox was Q Sure. dressed physically? 2 3 Not at that time. Α And so you don't know where Ortiz whether he 4 Q 5 was there or not by the time you went back to 6 your car, fair? 7 I don't know one way or the other. Α 8 Q Prior to you going back to the car, was there a 9 discussion at least amongst the individuals that were there, Price, Weber, Swendrowski, as 10 11 to what they were going to do at Roma's, what 12 the plan was? I don't remember specifics, but it was on the 13 Α 14 line of what had happened at Burger King, 15 locate the vehicle, conduct a traffic stop. 16 So there was discussions. You just don't have Q 17 specifics? 18 Correct. Α That's fine. Were you -- I know you said you 19 0 20 wanted to -- even though you told Price you 21 were going to go home, but you decided to hang 22 around and give him eyes on and hands and 23 everything. 24 Did you ever or did your name 25 ever come up amongst that group as to we'll

		have Hackett go into the parking lot or we'll
2		have Hackett nearby or anything like that?
3		Just the same thing with the Burger King, you
4		were pumping gas. Obviously you're not pumping
5		gas at Roma's.
6		Were there any discussions where
7		your name came up that you would be undercover
8		or participating in some manner in that traffic
9		stop at Roma's?
10	Α	No. I was a nonparticipant participant.
11	Q	So all you knew is there was going to be a
12		traffic stop at Roma's. There were some
13		individuals. Cocaine was involved. And you
14		were heading back to your car?
15	Α	Correct.
16	Q	How long did this meeting last that you were a
17		participant of where it's Weber, Price,
17 18		
		participant of where it's Weber, Price,
18		participant of where it's Weber, Price, Swendrowski?
18 19		participant of where it's Weber, Price, Swendrowski? MR. LAUER: Object to the form.
18 19 20		participant of where it's Weber, Price, Swendrowski? MR. LAUER: Object to the form. Where they're talking about the plan or they're
18 19 20 21		participant of where it's Weber, Price, Swendrowski? MR. LAUER: Object to the form. Where they're talking about the plan or they're together?
18 19 20 21 22		<pre>participant of where it's Weber, Price, Swendrowski?</pre>

1		THE WITNESS: So while I'm out of my
2		car still in the Burger King parking lot?
3	BY M	R. CADE:
4	Q	Right. So it's basically I want to know the
5		time frame. It's Swendrowski, it's Weber, it's
6		Price, it's you because you don't recall
7		whether Ortiz had stopped or not.
8		The four of you, how long were
9		you participating in the conversations of hey,
10		there's a guy at Roma's, he's got cocaine,
11		we'll pretty much do the same thing we did at
12		McDonald's?
13	Α	It was a fair amount of time, 10 or so, because
14		at that point we didn't know Knox was coming
15		back.
16		MR. LAUER: 10 minutes?
17		THE WITNESS: Correct. Things had
18		kind of slowed down at that point I just
19		remember.
20	BY M	R. CADE:
21	Q	Before Knox indicated he was coming back on
22		duty, were there discussions about not going
23		forward with the bust at Roma's?
24	Α	There was a manpower concern, yes.
25	Q	What was discussed?

1 The fact that we have two squad cars that have Α 2 individuals that we had just arrested, we're 3 going to need to do something with them before we start something else. 4 5 Subsequently you learned that -- or you know Q that Knox is not in department uniform, he's in 6 7 a polo shirt and jeans, et cetera; fair? I do eventually discover he's not wearing his 8 Α 9 uniform, yes. Do you know why it was not suggested that Knox 10 0 11 convey one of the suspects back to the village 12 police department in his Town of East Troy 13 vehicle as opposed to participate in the plan? 14 Α I don't. 15 Q So you go back, get in your car. I'm assuming 16 the people all leave the Burger King. Prior to 17 leaving the Burger King, did you have any radio 18 communications with anybody about any 19 additional information as to the plan? 20 Prior to leaving the Burger King? Α 21 Q Correct. 22 I don't believe so. Α 23 So as you go back to your car, you just know, Q 24 hey, they're going to go do a bust, a takedown; 25 I'm going to be nearby to give them eyes on.

1	You don't know make or model or how many
2	potential suspects or anything, fair?
3	MR. LAUER: Object to the form of the
4	question.
5	You may answer. Go ahead.
6	THE WITNESS: Before leaving the
7	Burger King?
8	BY MR. CADE:
9	Q Correct.
10	A That's correct.
11	Q So as they leave the Burger King, walk me
12	through that point. What happened next?
13	A I sat in my car. They were still standing
14	outside of their cars. They eventually got
15	into their squad cars. I saw them leave the
16	Burger King and turn north on ES, so I got in
17	behind them north on ES.
18	Officer Price turned right at
19	Highway 20. I believe there was some radio
20	communication about a car. And then he did
21	turn around and join back up with us. I pulled
22	into the firehouse, and the marked vehicles
23	continued on into Roma's.
24	I parked my car at the firehouse
25	and started walking north.

1 As you were walking north, was there snow on Q 2 the ground? 3 I don't think so. When you say they left the Burger King, can you 4 Q 5 give me who left the Burger King to head towards Roma's? 6 7 I believe Price was first and then Knox, maybe Α next Ortiz and then me. I can't recall the 8 9 exact order. And just to clarify, I know you had said, hey, 10 Q 11 we've got this manpower issue. Was there any 12 communication while you were at the Burger King 13 and you were part of the group meeting to contact either the Town of East Troy for 14 15 additional manpower or to contact Walworth 16 County to assist? 17 For additional units? Α 18 Q Correct. We had two deputies there and two -- one car. 19 Α 20 I don't know if Officer Price or deputy chief 21 talked about that. 22 That's all I'm trying to figure out is we know Q 23 we've got two village police cars that are 24 there, but one has a suspect in it and the 25 other has the informant in it, correct?

		_
1	Α	Correct.
2	Q	And we know we've got two Walworth County
3		deputies. One has a suspect and one shows up
4		approximately the time you're either walking
5		back to your car or right contemporaneously,
6		correct?
7	Α	Correct.
8	Q	And you had said that before Knox came on the
9		radio, there was a concern about manpower,
10		correct?
11	Α	Correct.
12	Q	Because it would only be Price and Ortiz that
13		would have available cars, fair?
14	Α	Correct.
15	Q	So what I'm wondering is at that point in time
16		while there was discussions about manpower, did
17		anyone get on the radio and call Walworth
18		County and see if they had additional units
19		that could be spared or contact the Town of
20		East Troy to say do you guys have any
21		additional bodies you can assist with?
22	Α	I know the Town of East Troy wouldn't have, but
23		I do not know if Price or deputy chief made a
24		phone call to the county.
25	Q	Why do you know the town wouldn't have?

1 Because when they went to that training, they Α were the only officer on duty. 2 3 Knox was the only officer on duty? 0 I believe they left the town uncovered and 4 Α 5 county would cover down for them -- for any 6 emergency calls. Non-emergency calls are 7 typically stacked. And what do you mean by "stacked"? 8 Q 9 They wait until we come back for non-emergency. Α It's just like there's no police officers, and 10 0 the proverbial cat in the tree kind of thing, 11 12 you'll get to it when you get to it? 13 It's not an emergency. Α 14 Q Subsequently, I assume you were aware also in 15 the vehicle with Knox is Sergeant Smith? 16 I learned that later. Α 17 Now Sergeant Schmidt has testified and it's in 0 18 his DCI report that he was off duty that day. 19 So he was never on duty and never reported on, 20 et cetera. You're saying that the town only 21 had one officer on duty that day in terms of 22 Knox? 23 That's typical, yes. Α what do you mean "that's typical"? I thought 24 Q 25 usually they have two or three depending on the

1		rotations.
2		MR. LAUER: The town you're talking
3		about?
4		MR. CADE: The town, correct.
5		MR. LAUER: Go ahead. If you know.
6		THE WITNESS: Like, for instance
7		well, day shift is different. But for the
8		village, I'm typically by myself on first
9		shift. There's the chief, but I take the road.
10		Second shift is by themselves, and for the most
11		part third shift is by themselves. Every now
12		and then there's some overlap. Same with the
13		township.
14	BY M	R. CADE:
15	Q	I thought on first shift you're dealing with
16		the schools pretty much every day?
17	Α	No, two days a week.
18	Q	Two days a week you're dealing with the schools
19		and the other days
20	Α	I'm on the road.
21	Q	you're on the road, and you're probably
22		doing the same five on, two off, four on, two
23		off shift?
24	Α	Correct.
25	Q	So you drive over to Roma's. You once Price

1 makes that turn on 20, he at some point loops 2 back around you, correct? 3 I believe so. Α And what was the radio chatter about Price. and 4 Q 5 what he was doing? I think at that point he had learned what the 6 Α 7 vehicle was or what the vehicle was parked next 8 to. 9 Does the Grand Marquis mean anything to you? Q That does pop into my brain. 10 Α 11 was there any chatter in terms of someone 0 12 saying to Price what the hell are you doing, 13 where are you going? MR. LAUER: On the radio you're 14 15 talking about? 16 MR. CADE: On the radio, correct, 17 when he makes that turn. THE WITNESS: I don't know if it's on 18 the radio, but I did ask myself that. 19 20 BY MR. CADE: 21 But you didn't follow Price when he made the Q 22 You continued following Knox and Ortiz? 23 I was going to the firehouse, yes. Α 24 continuing onto the firehouse. 25 No matter what, you were going to head to the Q

1		firehouse?
2	Α	Correct.
3		MR. LAUER: Object to the form of the
4		question.
5		Go ahead.
6		MR. CADE: What was wrong with the
7		question?
8		MR. LAUER: "No matter what" is vague
9		and overly broad, Counsel. So I'll object to
10		the form.
11		MR. CADE: I'll rephrase.
12	BY M	R. CADE:
13	Q	In your head prior to leaving Burger King, you
14		had made the decision you were going to go to
15		the firehouse no matter what the other officers
16		did? You were going to be at I'm assuming a
17		safe distance at the firehouse because you did
18		not have on uniform and body armor and that
19		type of stuff, fair?
20	Α	Correct.
21	Q	So as you pull into the firehouse, what did you
22		observe?
23	Α	The marked squads continued into the Roma's
24		parking lot.
25	Q	Okay. Take a moment and look at Exhibit 38

1 which is an aerial photograph. You'll see on 2 38 to essentially the south or southwest there 3 appears to be a concrete driveway, and there's several cars that are there. I see a couple 4 5 red trucks, et cetera. Is that the firehouse? That is. 6 Α 7 Q On that aerial photograph when you parked your vehicle, is it visible, or did you park 8 somewhere else? 9 I would say in the vicinity of this red and 10 Α 11 white car. 12 Okay. Well, I'm -- I've got three Sharpies. Q You can pick whichever color you'd like. 13 14 you would just put an X with one of the 15 Sharpies with where you parked your vehicle. 16 (Witness complies.) Α 17 Draw a circle around it, please, sir. 0 18 (Witness complies.) Α And then just do a little line off to the side 19 0 and just write Hackett. 20 21 (Witness complies.) Α 22 So in a blue Sharpie you've put an X where the Q 23 fire station is, and you've indicated where you 24 approximately would have parked your vehicle, 25 fair?

1 That's correct. Α 2 And from there we can also see on this aerial 0 3 photograph, not great because of probably -you'd agree with me the photograph depicts 4 5 grass and everything. It's very brown. not green and lush, true? 6 7 Correct. Α So more likely winter, maybe early spring or 8 Q 9 very late fall, but definitely the trees don't look like they have leaves on them from this 10 11 aerial photograph. 12 Α Correct. 13 From where you placed the X on Exhibit 38, Q 14 there are trees. Did the trees block your view 15 of Roma's? 16 MR. LAUER: The question's vague. 17 to Roma's what, the building, the parking lot? 18 MR. CADE: Starting with the building, the parking lot. 19 20 BY MR. CADE: 21 was your viewpoint of looking to the next Q 22 property over, was it blocked by trees? 23 Obviously we're not on the ground. We're 24 looking at this from an aerial photograph, so I 25 don't know if those trees extend all the way

1 down so that if they're bunched up, no matter 2 what, you can't see what's going on. 3 people have trees to kind of use as privacy or if these are taller trees that you can see 4 5 right through the trunks into or at Roma's. 6 Α If you get out of my car, you can see the 7 building. Okay. If you would, Officer, draw an N for 8 Q 9 north, the typical north directional. (Witness complies.) 10 Α And in red you've drawn an arrow showing what 11 0 12 is directionally north? 13 Um-hum, correct. Α 14 Q So from your vantage point as soon as you 15 pulled up into the parking lot, did you 16 immediately get out of your car and begin 17 walking, or did you wait in your car for a 18 moment? I think the second I put it in park, turned it 19 Α 20 off, I got out of my car. 21 And started walking towards Roma's? Q 22 I did. Α 23 At any point in time -- we know there's a Q 24 shooting, correct? 25 Α Correct.

And did you hear the shots fired? 1 Q 2 I did. Α 3 Prior to hearing shots fired, and I'll work Q backwards, did you see any emergency lights 4 activated? 5 I don't recall seeing any squad cars. 6 Α 7 Q with their lights -- emergency lights activated, correct? 8 9 MR. LAUER: The question is vague. 10 MR. CADE: I'll rephrase. MR. LAUER: If you're pinpointing 11 12 when he is walking after his vehicle, say that. Rob, I'll rephrase. 13 MR. CADE: Incidentally, what time 14 MR. LAUER: 15 is your conference? 16 MR. CADE: I've got about two 17 minutes, and then I'll go off line. 18 MR. LAUER: Okay. BY MR. CADE: 19 20 So you get out of your car immediately, and you Q 21 begin walking to Roma's? 22 Α Correct. 23 So between getting out of your car and walking Q to Roma's and hearing shots fired, at any point 24 25 did you observe anywhere either vehicles

1		actually with their lights activated or maybe
2		the flashing glow of an emergency light?
3		That's all I'm trying to pinpoint is in that
4		time frame, did you observe any lights?
5	Α	I couldn't see any squad cars.
6	Q	Okay. You'd agree with me this time, 5:20,
7		5:30 roughly on the 24th of February?
8	Α	Correct.
9	Q	And it's starting to get dark, it's starting to
10		be dusk, end of the day February, that type of
11		thing, correct?
12		MR. LAUER: Object to the form.
13		Go ahead.
14		THE WITNESS: It started it was
15		towards the end of the day. You bet, but the
16		sunlight was still there.
17	BY N	MR. CADE:
18	Q	Sure. And all I'm trying to get at is even if
19		you can't see a car physically, sometimes you
20		can see, you know, maybe what appears to be
21		strobing, flashing, you know, shadows being
22		dispersed because of light.
		Did you have anything to suggest
23		Did you have anything to suggest
2324		that emergency lights had been activated prior

I don't recall seeing any reflections or 1 Α indications of emergency lights. 2 3 If you would with that same blue pen, because Q we'll stick with that, if you would draw 4 5 basically the path that you took towards Roma's. 6 7 (Witness complies.) Α And then can you put -- let's do this. 8 Q 9 walked towards Roma's until you heard shots fired, right? 10 11 Α Correct. 12 And then when you heard shots fired or you 0 heard the physical shots, what did you do? 13 I attempted to say shots fired over 14 Α Stopped. 15 the radio, but I don't think it transmitted. 16 heard the squealing of tires leaving, and I saw 17 a vehicle leaving Roma's going south on ES past 18 my location. If you would, would you find the spot 19 0 20 approximately where you were at where you heard 21 the shots being fired? And then I'd like you to put a one and then a circle through it. 22 23 Does that make sense? 24 A one? Α 25 Right, so wherever you were when you heard the Q

shots fired. 1 2 Okay. Α 3 And then a circle around it. 0 (Witness complies.) 4 Α 5 MR. LAUER: We didn't say this, but we understand this is not drawn to scale. 6 7 MR. CADE: Correct. 8 MR. LAUER: Thank you. 9 BY MR. CADE: All I'm trying to do is because I know -- I've 10 Q 11 got your DCI report. I know there's subsequent 12 movement, things like that, Officer, so, you 13 know, there's going to be a one, there will be 14 a two, things like that, but I just want 15 roughly where you were when you heard the 16 shots -- the initial shooting of the shots. 17 Right there. Α 18 And you've drawn a one. Q 19 It's kind of hard with the Sharpie. Α 20 That Sharpie is not very sharp, but Q 21 you've drawn a one where that position is, 22 correct? 23 Α Correct. 24 I'm going to hand you a different Sharpie. Q 25 Maybe this one has a better tip for you to use.

1		MR. CADE: Why don't we go off the
2		record for a few minutes. I'm going to go next
3		door and jump on my call.
4		MR. LAUER: So we can take a break?
5		MR. CADE: We can take a break, 10,
6		12 minutes.
7		(Recess taken from 9:57 a.m. to 10:12
8		a.m.)
9	BY M	R. CADE:
10	Q	Okay, Officer Hackett, back on the record. I
11		had you draw on Exhibit 38 a one when you heard
12		the shots fired. And I just want to kind of
13		walk you through hearing the shots fired.
14		So I would imagine, and if I'm
15		wrong, correct me, that as soon as you hear
16		shots fired, your training is to immediately
17		stop because you need to assess where they're
18		coming from, et cetera, fair?
19	Α	I'd say that's part of the process.
20	Q	Because if they're coming from behind you, you
21		want to know if there's someone from behind you
22		or the side or whatever. The first thing is
23		where are the shots coming from, assess the
24		situation and then figure out what to do next?
25	Α	That sounds reasonable.

1 So when you heard these shots fired, were you Q able to tell the direction they were coming 2 3 from? I knew they were to my front and left. 4 Α 5 So essentially to the north whatever Q directional? 6 7 Α (Nods.) when you say the "front," coming towards the 8 Q Roma's area? 9 Right, so probably the north, northwest. 10 Α So you said you heard shots fired and then 11 0 squealing tires as the vehicle left Roma's 12 making a left on ES and out? 13 14 Α Those are the sounds I remember. 15 Q Prior to hearing the shots fired, did you hear 16 any squealing or loud noises? 17 I don't recall. Α 18 what happened next after you saw -- you heard Q 19 shots fired and you see a vehicle escape? 20 presume you saw one or two police vehicles give 21 chase. 22 I believe I just saw one vehicle. Α 23 And from the position you're at on that one, 0 24 were you able to see -- at that point in time 25 shots fired, were you able to see any vehicles,

1 not leaving Roma's but physically looking at 2 Roma's towards the building or the parking lot, 3 could you see any of the vehicles there? I mean I think the cooks were parked here, and 4 Α I'm sure there was a couple of cars over here. 5 No, I'm sorry. I didn't mean like regular 6 Q 7 vehicles. I mean police vehicles. 8 Α No. 9 So you could see other vehicles because the Q parking lot basically is in essence 360 around 10 that building, correct? 11 12 Correct. Α So you saw other vehicles, but you did not see 13 Q 14 any police vehicles --15 Α Correct. 16 -- until they left, whether it was one or two Q 17 left the Roma's parking lot? 18 Correct. Α when you drove into the fire department 19 0 20 initially -- you parked where you put that X --21 did you see where either Knox or Ortiz or 22 Price, did you see where they entered Roma's? 23 It was the most northern entrance. Α 24 who did you see enter the most northern Q 25 entrance?

1 I think all the squad cars did. Α 2 That's your recollection, all squad cars 0 3 entered that way? I believe so. 4 Α 5 Q And as they entered, did you lose sight of them because of where you were parked based on that 6 7 X on Exhibit 38? Correct. So you can see there's another 8 Α 9 driveway here for the firehouse. Okay. So the firehouse is two driveways? 10 0 11 Correct. So I entered this one, came around Α 12 the building on the back side of the firehouse, 13 came up and parked here. 14 Q So for the record, you demonstrated -- looking 15 at Exhibit 38 there's some white space that's 16 at the bottom of the photograph in the area 17 that the Exhibit 38 sticker is. You're 18 indicating that in the area you've parked your vehicle and you've indicated by X that the fire 19 20 station has two driveways, and it essentially 21 has -- very similar to Roma's, you have the 22 ability to enter one entrance and drive around 23 the building towards the other entrance? 24 That's correct. Α 25 So you entered the fire station in the southern Q

1 entrance, drove around the fire station, and 2 then parked near the northern entrance where it's marked with the X? 3 4 Α Correct. 5 Got out of your vehicle. And then as soon as 0 6 you got out where position one is indicated, 7 you hear shots fired? 8 Α Correct. 9 After you hear the shots fired, what did you Q 10 do? 11 I recall attempting to put that out over the Α 12 I saw a vehicle leaving Roma's at a radio. 13 high rate of speed. In my brain -- eventually 14 I made my way back to my car and then back to 15 Roma's. 16 when you say back to your car, back to your car Q 17 to move it towards Roma's or back to your car 18 iust to do something else? I went back to my car and then realized it 19 Α 20 wasn't a squad car. It just -- tunnel vision 21 kind of kicked in, and I then went back to -- I 22 left my car there and then on foot went into 23 Roma's. 24 So your initial thought -- your tunnel vision Q 25 was, get in my car and help with the pursuit?

1 Α Correct. And then as you're going back, you're like. 2 0 3 oh --It's my Cadillac. 4 Α 5 -- it's my Cadillac, and that really shouldn't Q be on the road driving at a high rate of speed 6 7 without police lights, fair? That would be a fair estimate, yes. 8 Α 9 So then what did you do after you came to that Q realization? Did you leave your car at the 10 fire station, or did you move it? 11 I left it there. 12 Α And then you walked back to Roma's? 13 0 14 Α I ran back to Roma's. 15 Q And when you ran back, what did you do at that 16 point? 17 Made contact with the only squad car I could Α 18 see, and that was the Town of East Troy. And that was Knox? 19 0 20 Α Correct. 21 And when you made contact, did you realize that Q Schmidt at that point was in the vehicle? 22 23 I did. Α And what did you guys discuss, you and Knox 24 Q

and/or Schmidt?

25

1 Questions were asked about what happened. Α 2 Okay. And what were you told? 0 3 I don't remember getting an answer right away. Α Because an employee had come out, I remember 4 5 right away screaming that someone had ran that way towards the interstate. 6 7 Q An individual had run towards the interstate? 8 Α Correct. 9 And who came out and told you an individual Q ran, was it a male or a female? 10 Female. 11 Α 12 She said, hey, I just saw someone run towards Q 13 the interstate? Someone just ran that way, yes, and pointed 14 Α 15 towards the interstate. 16 And then did you follow to figure out who that Q 17 person was? 18 I did. Α And did you find that individual? 19 0 I did. 20 Α And was that the informant? 21 Q 22 Α It was. 23 Had you seen the informant at any time when you Q 24 were back at the village police station --25 initially you're coming off of duty, finishing

1		up at the schools. You find out from Price,
2		hey, move the guy's car, here's the plan, we're
3		going to do McDonald's and the Shell.
4		Had you seen the informant at
5		any point in time prior to Burger King and
6		heading to Roma's?
7	Α	I think from poking my head in the back of the
8		booking room while Price was back there.
9	Q	So you knew who that individual was or at least
10		had seen him?
11	Α	I visually recognized him.
12	Q	And were you aware that the informant was in
13		the back seat of Price's car as you were
14		driving over towards Roma's?
15	Α	I was.
16	Q	Is there any policy that the village has with
17		regards to informants being in the back of
18		vehicles during an operation?
19	Α	I don't believe so.
20	Q	Have you ever had experience with an informant
21		having them in the back seat of your squad car
22		during an operation?
23	Α	No.
24	Q	Have you ever had an opportunity to work with
25		informants?
		l de la companya de

1		MR. LAUER: Before this?
2		MR. CADE: Before this.
3		THE WITNESS: Not as the liaison or
4		direct contact, no.
5	BY M	R. CADE:
6	Q	Just on the periphery of whatever is going on?
7	Α	Correct.
8	Q	Did you have any concerns about the informant
9		being in the back seat of the squad car heading
10		over towards Roma's to do a takedown?
11		MR. LAUER: Object to the form of the
12		question.
13		Subject to that, you may answer.
14		THE WITNESS: I don't recall having
15		any misgivings.
16	BY M	R. CADE:
17	Q	One of the things you had stated that you were
18		going to kind of stay back was the fact that
19		you didn't have body armor on, so you didn't
20		want to be physically driving into Roma's
21		because you don't know what's going to happen,
22		correct?
23	Α	Correct.
24	Q	And so even though you had concerns about your
25		personal safety and not having body armor, you

1		did not have any concerns concerns with
2		regards to the confidential informant heading
3		over there without any type of body armor or
4		something some sort of protective gear?
5	Α	That thought did not enter my mind.
6	Q	Did you have any conversations with Knox or
7		Schmidt as to once you got the informant and
8		find out who that individual was, did you speak
9		to them with regards to what had occurred?
10	Α	Yes. I asked them what happened.
11	Q	And what were you told?
12	Α	I don't exactly remember a lot of details
13		coming out. I remember then focusing on kind
14		of securing the scene because I knew that a
15		shooting had taken place. Everyone there was
16		safe. Now we have to secure the scene.
17	Q	And at some point you made the decision to
18		start spray painting where shell casings were,
19		correct?
20	Α	Both me and Knox identified that as something
21		we should probably do immediately.
22	Q	Did you have the spray paint in your car, or
23		did Knox have the spray paint?
24	Α	I didn't have a car, so everything came out of
25		Officer Knox's car.

1	Q	So a decision is made we should secure
2		evidence, and you made the decision to spray
3		paint where the shell casings were, correct?
4	Α	Either I or Knox did.
5	Q	And at some point you guys placed cones in
6		those locations as well?
7	Α	Correct.
8	Q	And neither did Schmidt say anything to you
9		when you asked what happened?
10	Α	No.
11	Q	Did either one of them tell you that the
12		suspect vehicle had attempted to run down
13		Ortiz?
14	Α	I don't recall.
15	Q	You just knew you heard the shooting. You
16		heard squealing. You eventually went over
17		there, secured evidence, found the confidential
18		informant and then just waited for backup I
19		guess?
20	Α	Essentially.
21		(Exhibit 39 was marked for
22		identification.)
23	BY M	IR. CADE:
24	Q	I'm going to show you what's been marked as
25		Exhibit 39. And 39 is a copy of your interview

1		with DCI, Department of Criminal Investigation.
2		Have you seen this document
3		before, sir?
4	Α	I have.
5	Q	If you look at the bottom again, I told you
6		about the Bates numbers. You'll see that it's
7		marked T001570 all the way through 1579. And
8		what I'll do is I'll just call out specific
9		pages.
10		On page 1573 in the second
11		paragraph, you'll see, Officer, that at the
12		very last sentence it says "Lastly, SA" or
13		special agent "Joy clarified that the
14		criminal investigation being conducted by the
15		Wisconsin Department of Justice-Division of
16		Criminal Investigation was separate from any
17		internal investigation that may be conducted by
18		Hackett's department."
19		Do you know if your department
20		conducted any internal investigation of that
21		shooting?
22	Α	I am not aware of that.
23	Q	Were you ever other than this interview by
24		Special Agent Joy and special agent Prieve,
25		P-R-I-E-V-E, were you ever interviewed as to

1		what had transpired on February 24th?
2		MR. LAUER: Object to the form of the
3		question. It's vague.
4		MR. CADE: I'll rephrase.
5	BY M	R. CADE:
6	Q	Other than meeting with your attorney from
7		February 24th through today's deposition other
8		than meeting with Mr. Lauer or someone from his
9		office, legal counsel, did you ever have
10		were you ever interviewed or asked, Officer
11		Hackett, Aaron, what happened on February 24th?
12	Α	Other than this DCI interview and then their
13		secondary follow-up, no.
14	Q	And I'll get to the secondary because it's all
15		part of this Exhibit 39.
16		If you would turn to the next
17		page, sir. So it looks like you're driving a
18		'92 Cadillac. Is that like a classic Cadillac?
19	Α	I bought it from a buddy in the American
20		Legion, yes.
21	Q	I don't know. Do you have one of those special
22		light blue plates that it's
23	Α	I did not get one of those, no.
24	Q	Does the department, the village, have any
25		rules with regards to officers participating in

1		any sort of police operations being in plain
2		clothes or civilian clothes versus being in
3		uniform?
4	Α	I don't recall anything specific requiring
5		certain things.
6	Q	I'm assuming Exhibit 39 you've read since
7		giving the report and doing the follow-up,
8		meaning you've read that since February of
9		2016, correct?
10	Α	I have read this, yes.
11	Q	I want you to turn to page 1576. Looking at
12		the top paragraph where it says "Hackett
13		stated, a Town of East Troy Police Department
14		officer," do you see that at the very top of
15		that page, sir?
16	Α	Correct.
17	Q	Further in that sentence after the word Burger
18		King it says "Hackett stated that he had asked
19		Price if he could go home. Price indicated
20		that Hackett's further assistance would be
21		needed."
22		What did Price specifically tell
23		you that your further assistance would be
24		needed?
25	Α	I will try to explain this as best I can.

1	Q	Sure.
2	Α	I have known Officer Price for a long time. I
3		would consider him someone that I can read his
4		body language, and he can read mine.
5		When Knox had called over the
6		radio, I recall saying to Price, "You guys got
7		enough bodies now, I'm going to go home." I
8		don't know how to convey this to a court
9		reporter, but his face was one that a friend
10		gives another friend and that's, you got to go,
11		that kind of thing. Do you know what I mean?
12	Q	Sort of like my wife will tell me she has an
13		issue; friend up?
14	Α	Yeah. There's a sarcastic notion to it. Now
15		if I had gone to my Cadillac and hopped in and
16		drove home, that would have been no issue on
17		Price's side.
18	Q	But he gave you a look of like, really, you're
19		going to go home?
20	Α	I would say that that's an accurate
21		representation.
22	Q	And in giving you that look, really, are you
23		going to go home, did you get the sense that
24		Price thought this was going to be a big
25		operation over at Roma's, or was it a sense of

1		,
1		you're going to miss out on the fun
2		sarcastically by visual intonation?
3	Α	I don't know about fun.
4		MR. LAUER: I'll object to the form
5		of the question. It's compound and vague and
6		overly broad.
7		Go ahead if you can answer.
8		THE WITNESS: I knew I wasn't needed.
9		I wouldn't describe it as "fun." I don't know
10		how to describe it to you.
11	BY MR. CADE:	
12	Q	Just he gave you a look of like, really, you're
13		going to go home?
14	Α	Yeah, in a poke-the-bear way.
15	Q	So because of that, you decided to stick
16		around?
17	Α	In an extremely secondary means, yes.
18	Q	Turning down to the third paragraph really
19		where it starts "Hackett said Deputy Ortiz," do
20		you see that?
21	Α	Yes.
22	Q	In the middle of that paragraph you have
23		"Hackett stated after a very short brief by
24		Price, the squads left the Burger King with
25		Price leading followed by Knox, Ortiz and

1 Hackett stated that Knox received at Hackett. 2 most a two-minute brief by Price." 3 Did I read that correct? You did. 4 Α 5 Then later on it says "Hackett reiterated Knox 0 had received at most a two-minute brief from 6 7 Price about what they were going to do at Roma's." 8 9 Why did you have a need to reiterate what -- the time frame that Knox had 10 received for a briefing? 11 I don't know. Perhaps I was asked twice. 12 Α Ι don't recall. 13 14 Q But you certainly saw Knox arrive. You saw 15 Knox participate -- arrive at the Burger King. 16 You saw Knox participate in a discussion, and 17 your recollection immediately after the 18 shooting was at most it was two minutes for 19 Knox to have this briefing or description of 20 the plan with Price, fair? 21 From a distance of my car, yes, fair. Α 22 Nothing had come over the radio as to what was Q 23 going to be done, correct? 24 I don't recall. Α 25 If it was over the radio, you would have heard Q

1		because you had a radio, correct?
2		MR. LAUER: I'll object. Asked and
3		answered. I mean he talked about some other
4		radio contact, but you're just talking about at
5		this time?
6		MR. CADE: I'm talking about the plan
7		being implemented.
8	BY M	R. CADE:
9	Q	When Knox shows up I just want to make sure
10		there wasn't a discussion between Knox and
11		Price or Knox and someone else where as Knox is
12		driving to the scene, they're discussing what's
13		going to take place.
14	Α	No. Everything was verbal for them over there.
15	Q	Okay. Turn to the last paragraph. You
16		indicate there you recall seeing second
17		sentence "Remembered seeing Knox and Price
18		pull in but wasn't sure where Ortiz was in the
19		caravan and whether he was first or last."
20		You do know Ortiz was in front
21		of you as you drove to Roma's, correct?
22	Α	Correct.
23	Q	And you know Price was behind you because he
24		looped back around, correct?
25	Α	Correct.

1 But you don't remember Ortiz, how he went to Q 2 the parking lot at Roma's? 3 MR. LAUER: Object to the form. mean the order? 4 5 MR. CADE: Correct. 6 THE WITNESS: I quess I don't 7 remember. 8 BY MR. CADE: 9 That's fine. Turn to the last page -- I'm 0 sorry, the second-to-last page, 1578. On 1578, 10 middle paragraph where it says "Hackett stated 11 that at some point on scene," do you see that? 12 13 I do. Α The last sentence "Hackett clarified he hadn't 14 Q heard anything other than the shots. 15 confirmed that he hadn't heard any commands, 16 just pop, pop, pop." Do you see that? 17 18 I do. Α Do you recall hearing three shots or four 19 0 20 shots? 21 It was three or four. Α 22 Let me ask you this --Q 23 I mean --Α 24 Go ahead. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to Q 25 interrupt.

1 That's okay. Approximately four shots. Α 2 And so just so I'm clear, as you were walking, 0 3 can you give an approximation -- at the point you were at point number one when you first 4 5 heard the shots, can you give an approximation 6 as to how far away you are, the distance 7 between your point one and, say, the northern 8 entrance to Roma's? Can you give me a distance 9 approximation, if you can? 150 feet. 10 Α 11 Because at some point, you did run then? You Q 12 went back to your car, and at some point you 13 sprinted over there, correct? 14 Α Correct. 15 Q And at the point you heard the shooting, pop, 16 pop, pop, I'm assuming you've -- whether at a 17 range or -- I should back up. I shouldn't make 18 assumptions. 19 In the line of duty, have you 20 ever had to fire your weapon, not on a training 21 range but at a suspect or responding to 22 something? 23 Not as a police officer, no. Α 24 You fired your weapon other times? Q 25 I did two tours in Iraq as an infantryman. Α

1 Sure, okay. Not a handgun. That would be a Q rifle, correct? 2 3 Correct. Α 4 Thank you for your service, by the way. Q 5 No issue. Α I'm sorry? 6 Q 7 Α No issue. So when you heard the firing, did there -- did 8 Q 9 it sound like you to that it was in rapid 10 succession, pop, pop, pop, pop, or did it 11 sound like there were a couple shots, a pause, 12 and a couple of shots? 13 Do you understand the 14 distinction in my question? 15 Α I do. 16 Q Okay. 17 They sounded as if they were in close Α 18 succession. 19 No pause? Q I don't recall. 20 Α 21 And I know you didn't have a stopwatch or Q 22 anything to know that it was coming. 23 At the time that you heard the 24 shooting, you had not heard -- we've already 25 iterated you didn't hear any sirens prior to

1		the shooting, correct?
2	Α	Correct.
3	Q	You had no recollection or you didn't see any
4		emergency-activated lights, correct?
5	Α	Correct.
6	Q	You didn't hear any other sounds, squealing
7		tires, honking of horns, anything like that
8		prior to the shooting?
9	Α	Correct.
10	Q	After the shooting, you're figuring out what's
11		going on, and then you see a car squealing
12		tires make a left out of the parking lot
13		heading south on ES?
14	Α	Correct.
15		MR. CADE: Those are my questions.
16		MR. SPARKS: Nothing from me.
17		MS. THOMPSON: Nothing. Thank you.
18		MR. LAUER: Okay. That's it.
19		(Proceedings concluded at 10:38 a.m.)
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1	STATE OF WISCONSIN)
2) SS: COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE)
3	
4	I, Dawn M. Lahti, RPR, CRR and Notary
5	Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, do
6	hereby certify that the preceding deposition
7	was recorded by me and reduced to writing under
8	my personal direction.
9	I further certify that I am not
10	a relative or employee or attorney or counsel
11	of any of the parties, or a relative or
12	employee of such attorney or counsel, or
13	financially interested directly or indirectly
14	in this action.
15	In witness whereof, I have
16	hereunder set my hand and affixed my seal of
17	office on this 6th day of May, 2019.
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	DAWN M. LAHTI, RPR/CRR
23	Notary Public In and for the State of Wisconsin
24	My commission expires April 17, 2020
25	My Commission expires April 17, 2020

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